



**Kurt E. Floren**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights and Measures

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures


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**Richard K. Iizuka**  
Chief Deputy

DATE: March 30, 2012

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman, Third District  
Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District  
Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Fifth District

FROM: Kurt E. Floren   
Agricultural Commissioner  
Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: **OPEN HOUSE MEETING IN HACIENDA HEIGHTS ON CITRUS  
GREENING DISEASE AND ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) today confirmed the state's first detection of the citrus disease known as huanglongbing (HLB), or citrus greening. The disease was detected in an Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) sample and plant material taken from a lemon/pummelo tree in a residential neighborhood in the Hacienda Heights area.

HLB is a bacterial disease that attacks the vascular system of plants. It does not pose a threat to humans or animals. The Asian citrus psyllid can spread the bacteria as the pest feeds on citrus trees and closely related species. This devastating disease causes fruit to taste bitter or medicinal, can cause early dropping or misshaping of fruit, poor flowering, and stunted growth of trees. A diseased tree will decline in health until it dies, typically within a few years, and there is no cure once infected. As reported in previous updates, Asian Citrus was first detected in Los Angeles County in August 2009. While there is a large contiguous area known to be infested, and there have been isolated detections of ACP in widespread parts of the County.

As of this update, HLB has only been confirmed to have infected a single tree. An intensive survey of local citrus trees and psyllids is underway to determine the source and extent of the HLB infestation. CDFA is making arrangements to remove and dispose of the infected tree and conduct treatment of citrus trees within 800 meters of the detection site. By taking these steps, a critical reservoir of disease and its vectors will be removed, which is essential.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

March 30, 2012

Page 2

To discuss the treatment project and provide direct answers to questions from area residents, CDFA will hold an open house meeting Thursday, April 5, 2012, at Industry Hills Expo Center, The Avalon Room, 16200 Temple Avenue, City of Industry, CA 91744, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Please see attached). Notices and treatment area maps are being mailed to every address in the treatment areas (see attachment), totalling about 2100 addresses. Members of my staff will be in attendance at the open house meeting.

Treatment for HLB will be conducted with the oversight of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA) and will be conducted safely, with advance and follow-up notices provided to residents in the treatment area. Since the first ACP detection in the County in 2009, CDFA has been treating properties at which the ACP specimens have been trapped together with nearby properties with host trees and plants, applying the pesticides cyfluthrin and imidacloprid to host plants and soil utilizing hand-held sprayers. CDFA has informed each property resident prior to such treatment. No aerial applications are being considered.

Planning has begun for a quarantine of the infested area to limit the spread of the disease by restricting the movement of citrus trees, citrus plant parts, green waste, and all citrus fruit except what is commercially cleaned and packed. As part of the quarantine, citrus and closely related plants at nurseries in the area will be placed on hold.

California citrus production exceeds \$1.1 billion, ranking second only to Florida in the U.S. Florida groves, however, are being devastated by citrus greening disease, raising understandable fears in California growers. In addition to the abundance of residential citrus trees, Los Angeles County has six commercial citrus growers registered with our office with a combined total of 68.5 acres of citrus production. HLB is known to be present in Mexico and in parts of the southern U.S. Florida first detected the ACP in 1998 and HLB in 2005, and the two have now been detected in all 30 citrus-producing counties in that state. The University of Florida estimates the disease has tallied more than 6,600 lost jobs, \$1.3 billion in lost revenue to growers and \$3.6 billion in lost economic activity. The pest and the disease are also present in Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina. The states of Arizona, Mississippi and Alabama have detected the pest but not the disease.

Please note that residents may be directed to call the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899 if they believe that they have found a specimen of ACP or any other exotic insect pest.

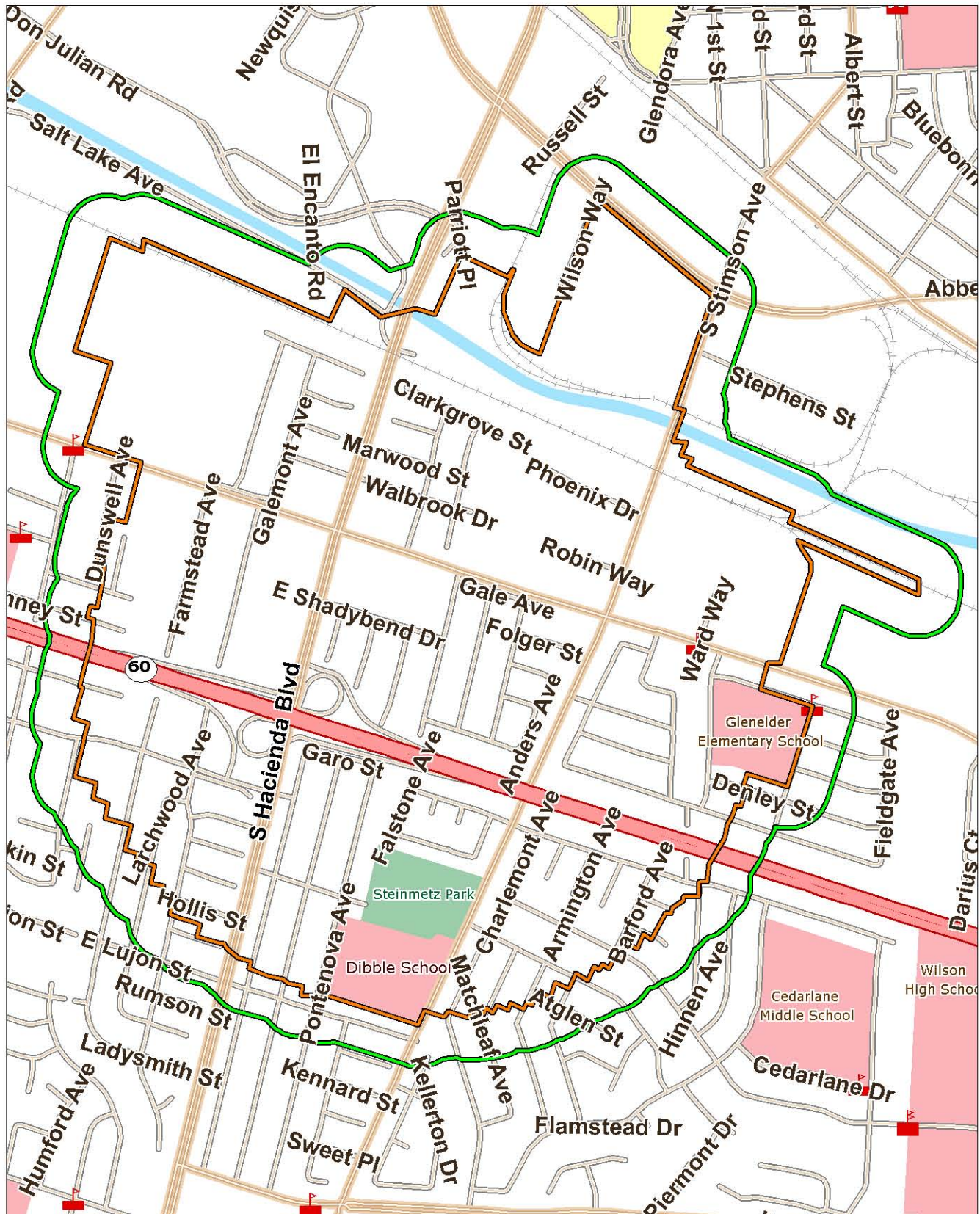
We will continue to inform the respective City Managers and your Board offices in the areas involved to enable staff to answer questions from the public.

I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

Attachments

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer  
Georgia Mattera, Public Safety Cluster  
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer  
Board Deputies

**ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID  
HACIENDA HEIGHTS, LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
2012**



——— 800M TREATMENT BOUNDARY  
——— NOTIFICATION BOUNDARY

++++ RAIL ROAD  
——— FREEWAY/EXPY  
——— STREET

# ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID OPEN HOUSE MEETING

**THURSDAY - APRIL 5, 2012**

**5:30 PM - 7:00 PM**



**THE AVALON ROOM  
INDUSTRY HILLS EXPO CENTER  
16200 TEMPLE AVENUE  
CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA 91744**